

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 036987

O R 271243Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6778

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03282

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALSO TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT,  
SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH

FROM E.V. ROSTOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: A.T.A. MEDIATION BETWEEN ICELAND AND  
BRITAIN

REFS: A. USNATO 1039; B. USNATO 975

1. RECEIVED ICELAND RESPONSE REF. A LATE FEB. 26.  
DELAY CAUSED BY INTERVENING NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE AND  
SENSE OF DEEPENING CRISIS AND NEAR HYSTERIA IN ICELAND  
ATTRIBUTED TO WHAT ICELANDERS REGARD AS CLEAR CHANGE IN  
BRITISH NAVAL TACTICS FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE.  
ICELAND COLLEAGUE REPORTS NO REPEAT NO RESPONSIBLE  
ICELANDIC POLITICAL LEADER WANTS BREAK WITH NATO OR  
U.S. BUT THAT ALL BELIEVE TIDE OF IRRATIONALITY AND  
PASSION OVER FISHING CONTROVERSY WILL SWEEP THEM TO  
SUCH ACTION UNLESS CRISIS IS BROUGHT TO A QUICK AND  
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DECISIVE END. FREQUENT INVOCATION OF QUOTE MENE,

MENE, TEKEL. UPHANSHIN UNQUOTE.

2. ICELANDER DUBIOUS ABOUT NORWEGIAN PLAN ON MERITS AS  
MATTER OF PRIDE.

3. HE SUGGESTS FOLLOWING MODIFICATION OF ROBERTS' PLAN,  
SUMMARIZED IN REF. B.:

A. IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS  
AND IF AT ALL FEASIBLE, TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL ALSO OF  
SOME OR ALL FISHING VESSELS;

B. AFTER WEEK OR TEN DAYS, DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS  
AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITISH AND ICELANDERS, KEEP-  
ING LUNS INFORMED AND ADVISED, IN LONDON, REYKJAVIK, OR  
BRUSSELS, AS BRITISH PREFER;

C. WHILE NO FIRM GOVERNMENTAL COMMITMENT ON COUNTER-  
PART SUGGESTED BY ROBERTS POSSIBLE FOR ICELANDERS IN  
PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, ICELANDIC COLLEAGUE IS NOW READY TO  
MAKE EXACTLY THE KIND OF ASSURANCE HE MADE IN 1973 IN  
ORDER TO GET SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATING PROCESS STARTED  
THEN, NAMELY, THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS  
AND IN FULL REALIZATION OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY, TAKING  
ACCOUNT OF WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE ICELANDIC DIPLOMATIC  
MISTAKES OF RECENT WEEKS, HE OFFERS HIS ASSURANCES THAT  
ROBERTS' APPROACH WILL WORK, THAT IS, THAT ICELAND WILL  
PROMPTLY AGREE TO SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT WITH GREAT  
BRITAIN PROVIDING BRITISH QUOTA OF TOTAL CATCH ESTAB-

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 037009

O R 271243Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6779

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03282

EXDIS

LISHED BY ICELAND ON CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES. HE  
BELIEVES THAT FIGURE OF TWENTY PERCENT RATHER THAN  
TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT WILL SURELY BE ACCEPTED BUT THAT  
AGREEMENT WILL NOT FAIL OVER A FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS.  
HE AGREES THAT TERM OF AGREEMENT SHOULD BE LONG ENOUGH  
TO INCLUDE EX-  
PECTED PERIOD OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE;

D. COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDS THAT AGREEMENT WHEN REACHED  
SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO GOOD OFFICES OF NATO AND  
ESPECIALLY OF SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS. AT THIS FIRST  
STAGE, IN VIEW OF NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE, HE BELIEVES  
MOST PRACTICABLE NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY HIM AND  
BRITISH AMBASSADOR KENNETH EAST IN REYKJAVIK, WITH  
WHOM HE BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FILL IN ALL  
DETAILS OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS OUTLINED ABOVE  
IMMEDIATELY, IE., STARTING TODAY.

4. ICELANDIC ANSWER GIVEN ROBERTS IN LONDON BY TELE-  
PHONE FEB. 26. ROBERTS WILL PASS MESSAGE TO  
BURROWS FO THIS MORNING. I SHALL TRY TO TELEPHONE LUNS  
AS PROMISED DURING THE DAY. TO MAKE DOUBLY CERTAIN THAT  
LUNS IS INFORMED, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF US NATO  
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COULD GIVE HIM THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, NAVAL FORCES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, FISHING DISPUTES, FISHING LIMITS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Film Number:** D760074-0507  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976027/aaaaafcb.tel  
**Line Count:** 155  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006